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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/697,215

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EXAMINER

CATTUNGAL, SANJAY

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3768

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

01/23/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/697,215	Applicant(s) HAO ET AL.	
	Examiner SANJAY CATTUNGAL	Art Unit 3768	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 April 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,4-9,11-14 and 17-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,4-9,11-14 and 17-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 4-9, 11-14, and 17-23 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Applicant's arguments, regarding Golay codes being transmitted on spatially adjacent paths as recited in the claims have been fully considered. Examiner agrees that the Kawagishi reference does not expressly teach that the first and second transmit paths are spatially adjacent to each other. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Napolitano et al.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 7, 9, 11, 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over U. S. Patent No. 6,663,565 to Kawagishi et al. in view of U. S. Patent No.6,193,663 to Napolitano et al.

Re Claim 1: Kawagishi discloses a coded excitation of ultrasound beams, encoding a first ultrasound beam (here one of the two sequences of pulses in disclosed reference) with a first code, transmitting first ultrasound beam on a first path (path that used for transmitting the pulses) encoding a second ultrasound beam (here the second sequences of pulses which is disclosed in reference) with a second code transmitting

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second ultrasound beam on a second path and receiving echo signals (received signal according to the reference) from first and second ultrasound beams, wherein first and second codes are Golay codes (Claims 1, 2, 12, and 13).

Kawagishi does not expressly teach that the first and second transmit path are spatially adjacent to each other.

Napolitano teaches that in multi-line imaging the first and second transmit path are spatially adjacent to each other. (Fig. 11 and Col. 4 lines 17-30)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify Kawagishi such that the first and second transmit path are spatially adjacent to each other as taught by Napolitano, since such a setup would result in more efficient use of transmit cycles and hence more efficient imaging.

Claims 4, 8, 12, and 17-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kawagishi and Napolitano in view of Philips (US patent 6,213,947).

Re Claims 4, 8, 12, and 17-19: The teachings of Kawagishi and Napolitano have been discussed above.

However, Kawagishi and Napolitano fail to disclose or fairly suggest use of matched filtering on the echo signals, Philips teaches the use of match filtering for most of the discussions related to both tissue harmonic imaging and contrast agent imaging within the art (See col.26 line 17-25).

Therefore, in view of Philips, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to replace the match filter with the filter of Kawagishi and Napolitano Match filter could be used on echo signals in contrast agent

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imaging to have concentration on preferred embodiments of the received harmonic pulse(s) and further to apply the lateral filtering for averaging between the first and second transmit focal zone, in order to significantly reduce the signal to noise ratio of a beam in an ultrasound imaging method.

Claims 5, 6, 13 and 20-23, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kawagishi, Napolitano and Phillips in view of U. S. Patent No. 5,984,869 to Chiao

Regarding Claims 5, 6, 13, and 20-23, Kawagishi, Napolitano and Phillips teach all of the above claimed limitations but do not expressly teach the use of FIR filters.

Chiao '869 teaches a method wherein finite impulse response (FIR) was applied for filtering (See Col.5 line 31-36), therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to perform the method of averaging the echo signals and higher order finite impulse response (FIR), by lateral filtering, in order to improve the method and apparatus of ultrasounds imagining wherein the signal to noise ratio (SNR) is reduced.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SANJAY CATTUNGAL whose telephone number is (571)272-1306. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30 - 5:00 pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Long Le can be reached on (571)272-0823. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

SPC

/Long V Le/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3768